

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Lutz Biedermann and Jürgen Harms

SERIAL NO.

FILED: Herewith

FOR: ANCHORING ELEMENT

BOX PATENT APPLICATION
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the claims as follows.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-11 and enter the following new claims.

--12. An anchoring element comprising:

a screw;

a receiving portion for connecting the screw to a rod;

wherein the screw comprises a threaded section and a head having a spherical segment-shaped section;

wherein the receiving portion comprises a first end, a second end opposite the first end, a longitudinal axis passing through the two ends, a bore coaxial with the

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longitudinal axis, a first region adjoining the first end with an essentially U-shaped cross-section with two free arms for receiving the rod (19) to be inserted, the two free arms comprising a thread, a second region adjoining the second end for receiving the head; and

an element which exerts pressure on the rod or on the head;

wherein the thread section and the head of the screw are separate parts.

13. The anchoring element according to claim 12, wherein the threaded section comprises a shank for engaging the head.

14. The anchoring element according to claim 13, wherein the head comprises a spring-like yielding edge facing toward the threaded section of the screw.

15. The anchoring element according to claim 14, wherein the spring-like yielding edge comprises one or more apertures or recesses which are directed parallel to the axis and distributed circumferentially around the head.

16. The anchoring element according to claim 12, wherein the head comprises a side wall and a bore hole coaxial with the axis.

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17. The anchoring element according to claim 16, wherein the head contains an aperture extending over an entire length of the side wall in a direction parallel to the axis.

18. The anchoring element according to claim 16, wherein the bore is cylindrical.

19. The anchoring element according to claim 13, wherein the shank comprises the rough surface.

20. The anchoring element according to claim 13, wherein the shank has a polygonal cross sectional shape in a section perpendicular to the axis.

21. The anchoring element according to claim 16, wherein the bore hole has an internal thread and the shank has an external thread for mating therewith.

22. The anchoring element according to claim 16, wherein the bore hole is corrugated internally in the circumferential direction and the shank has a corresponding corrugation on its outer side for mating therewith.--

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REMARKS

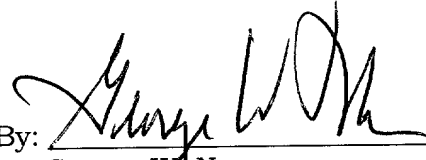
An early examination and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

2 Jan '02

By:



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